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matter for future investigation. As to Mr. Crawford's generalisations, they were obviously worthless after the statements of Mr. Murray, who was unquestionably the more competent judge of the two. It was evident that Mr. Murray took a warm interest in the Society, and would prove one of our most valuable local secretaries.

A report, of which the following is an abstract, was then read by Mr. Groom Napier, Local Secretary for Bristol, upon two unusually gifted Mulatresses:—

Mr. NAPIER thought it desirable to bring these two remarkable cases before the society, as illustrations of the exceptional characteristics of half-breeds. These had enjoyed the benefits of European education, which, in other cases under his notice, had not resulted in useful or elevated characters. The first was a daughter of a white by a pure negress. She was successfully educated, from fourteen years of age to twenty-eight, in Scotland, as a dress and staymaker. She suffered from home sickness, and returned to Tobago, a very exceptional circumstance in negro races, in whom family ties are universally spurned. In this case the very reverse took place; and she faithfully performed to her parent the duties of a daughter and fellow creature. To those who had educated her she ever remained attached and grateful, in this exhibiting some of the few good qualities to be found in the negro race.

In the second case, the mulatress was the product of a white planter through a full black girl. There was considerable intelligence manifested, and the child was educated in England from about her fourth year. Before the age of six she was able to read, and soon after to write. Self-confidence was soon exhibited; and at eight she was sent to school, where she remained at intervals until she was sixteen years of age, and then became a governess. As in other instances of negro peculiarities, music was strongly exhibited; and she is now organist of a parish church, and capable of conducting concerts. The religious sentiments are considerably brought out; and she is extravagant of her pecuniary resources,—a correlation not unfrequently found to exist in such circumstances. A low money-value has hence been assigned to her services, and she has met with little encouragement. Persons inferior to her in everything but colour have been preferred to her, and this in a country where, in the eye of the law, all shades are equally blended.

Her mind, Mr. Napier stated, was not original; her powers of assimilation were great, and there was considerable pride in her disposition, evidently a result of the negro afflatus. Her dignity was of more importance to her than the interests of her best friends. Her conduct exhibited great powers of resistance, and she was very contrary. In features she closely approximated to pure negro.

In contrast to these two instances of noble characters, he would give a few of the reverse from his own notes, which were far more common. A. N., a white planter, had a large coloured family. The eldest son was sent home to England at an early age, and placed in the family of a medical man at Cambridge. He graduated, and afterwards took

a degree in medicine, showing great capacity for languages and science. He was taken into partnership, at the age of twenty-eight, by the surgeon who had brought him up. On finding himself his own master, he entered into dissipated habits, neglected the practice, and at last, after eighteen months trial, his partner had to get rid of him to prevent absolute ruin. He died at thirty, worn out with disease. He was the son of a quadroon. His brothers, C. and M., showing less intelligence, were apprenticed to trades in this country, and hundreds of pounds were spent in establishing them in business when they had received good educations. They dissipated their means, and after having been a burden to their friends for some years, they died miserable or disappeared. Their brother A., having had a European education, was sent back to the West Indies. He might have had a large business as a plumber, and have made a good income; but he was so indolent and irregular in his work that, after many trials, few planters would employ him. Being quiet and inoffensive, he was considered the best of the family.

Of two sisters, who also received good educations, one married a respectable English merchant, and went out to the East Indies. The second married an English officer, but soon eloped, and afterwards led an abandoned life. She was remarkable for beauty.

Two young men, likewise children of quadroons, were sent to England for education. The first, named M., after being carefully educated, was apprenticed to a merchant. He went to the West Indies at the age of twenty-one. He showed good abilities, and some aptitude for business, and being prudent and anxious to make money, he went on steadily. He made a successful marriage, and after a while retired with a fair income. His character, although frequently quoted among his acquaintances as that of a model coloured man, does not appear to much advantage when contrasted with any but the most inferior Europeans. He is vain and proud; passionately addicted to display and frippery, having the manners of a French hairdresser or man-milliner,—shallow in thought, and low in his moral standard, but with sufficient prudence to prevent him from outraging the usages of society. Like coloured men in general, he is more than half a woman, without the tenderness and chasteness which become the better examples of European females. Coloured women, on the contrary, have the strong passions which in Europe are characteristic of the male sex, with an amount of tact and cunning not often seen in the Teutonic race.

The other example of a respectable coloured man who received a European education, in the first outset of his career forged an acceptance and decamped, leaving his father and family in great distress. He had inspired much confidence, and had every prospect of attaining wealth and honour; for he was treated as a son. Enlisting in the army as a private, he distinguished himself for his bravery, and returned at last, crowned with honours, to marry an heiress, and settle down into an idle and useless member of society.

He had collected about forty instances of coloured people, whose histories he had known or ascertained, who received every advantage

of good European educations. Of men, there were not more than one out of thirteen who really could be called creditable members of society. But of twenty-nine women, eleven might be considered tolerable, and two exemplary; but the remainder were loose characters.

The moral characters of coloured persons are so weak, that even great advantages of good example, and every inducement of interest, are insufficient to maintain them in a straight course. With women, this is less seen: they are not so much called on to act for themselves; manliness is not required, and they are more completely under the thumb of society, add to which, they are more acute and spirited than their brothers.

He would give one more instance of the false pride of the coloured race. A mother, possessed of good means, sent her illegitimate daughter to England for education, and when this was accomplished, came to England to fetch her. The daughter would not speak to her, which so affected the poor mother that she was half-witted ever afterwards.

Knowing that the Hon. James Kirk, of Tobago, had resided there forty-two years, and is a careful and practical naturalist, he asked him some questions about these people, and received the following answers. He said that mulattoes and mulatresses less frequently cohabited, from motives of pride or convenience, than with either of the paternal races, and that the number of children proceeding therefrom was smaller; but that they were perfectly fertile among themselves, and laughed at the idea of their becoming extinct from lack of fecundity. He thought the moral character of mulattoes inferior to that of either black or white races; for he had a very bad opinion of the morals of all West Indian coloured people. Thus, a man might be convicted of a notorious crime, and be imprisoned for years, and on his release be received into society with acclamation. He thought that some negroes were capable of acquiring a great amount of knowledge; but even the most intelligent were prone to use their learning for unworthy purposes, such as imitating the handwriting of a kind master for the purpose of fraud. Mr. Keans, the Master in Chancery for the Island of Tobago, gave him the same information. A low state of morality was apt to prevail especially amongst the Dissenters, even when very zealous in the promulgation of their creed, and liberal in the support of their ministers, or in contributing to the building of chapels; for instance, several black brothers preferred their neighbours' wives to their own. The black and coloured people of Tobago have been mostly peaceably disposed; the few insurrections known having been induced from Barbadoes or other neighbouring islands. A plot was discovered in due time, some years ago, which had for its object the massacre of the adult male white population, and the appropriation, by lottery, of the white females among the blacks. Mr. Kirk considered the negro but a savage,—a friend when excited, and little to be depended on even in his best moments. He thought men of the Governor Eyre stamp could alone successfully deal with negroes in revolt. He mentioned, however, in extenuation of the negro character, that his own overseer, in whom he has had great confidence for many years, was a pure negro. Mr. Kirk gave him an account of

a family of pure negro blood which contained two albinos (males), one of whom, marrying a negress, had a family of children, but no albinos.

The DIRECTOR remarked, that statements concerning the intellectuality of the negro were made very coolly now-a-days. The principal uses to which half-castes applied their superior knowledge was forgery. Such a statement respecting the negro was received, some years ago, with loud hisses. The paper itself took a very great range, and would become very useful for reference. The information obtained from Dr. Kirk was exceedingly important; and by a careful collection of such facts, we should gradually get to know something definite, not only of pure races, but of half-castes.

The Rev. DUNBAR I. HEATH said:—In all these cases, remember, it is not the character of individuals you have to deal with. Here and there you have a Newton, a Champollion: such instances are not characteristic of the race. Here and there, in like manner, you have a clever black man; but he is not the race. It is the coordination of the whole, that elevates the race. There are and there may be thousands of heroes, saints, and intellectual giants, who are kept from any useful result by the dead level around them. This dead level could only be altered by special personal exertions, and thus individualism constituted an element of civilisation; but this is not typical. There are vast numbers of intelligent animals; but in every case they commenced *de novo*, and the race was not universally brought to a higher level. Mere instances of individuality were not sufficient to warrant general conclusions.

Mr. WALTER C. DENDY corroborated the observations of the Rev. Dunbar Heath. Some years ago, with the late Dr. Hodgkin, he heard a paper, by a negro, on the "Anatomy and Physiology of the Negro," who mentioned some instances of coloured people of great endowments. But upon inquiring into the physical development of those individuals, he found that there was no prognathousness, and a good cranial development. The cases mentioned by Mr. Napier were exceptions, like Dr. Crowther, and could not be generally characteristic of the whole race. Individuals of great mental endowments could not be considered as forming any rule in regard to race.

Mr. GROOM NAPIER, in replying, said, that he had brought these cases forward as singular, if not unique. He did not consider them typical of the race, but exactly the reverse. The negro was deficient in the power of combining socially or politically; and therefore was not likely ever to be raised even to the level of the lowest of the European races.

The following letter from M. Dupont was then read.

Dinant, 21 Sept., 1867.

MY DEAR BLAKE,—Many thanks for sending me a copy of your paper on the "*Naulette Jaw*". It has interested me extremely, and I consider it the most complete that has yet been written.

You have perfectly established the analogies between the jaw and those of existing races, which had not yet been done; for you must